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NEW ENGLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL OF CARPENTERS

United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America

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GLENN MARSHALL
DISTRICT BUSINESS MANAGER
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**STATEMENT OF GLENN MARSHALL, CONNECTICUT DISTRICT BUSINESS
MANAGER OF THE CARPENTER'S UNION, OPPOSING RAISED BILL 5225,
AN ACT CONCERNING SOLAR WORK**

February 25, 2010

Chairman Colapietro, Chairman Shapiro and members of the General Law Committee, my name is Glenn Marshall, District Business Manager for the Connecticut Carpenters and President of Carpenter's Local 210, and I am here today to testify against **Raised Bill 5225, An Act Concerning Solar Work.**

I strongly support the growth of solar power and efforts to improve energy efficiency. However, we strongly oppose the change in Section 3 of this bill which would eliminate:

[employees of or any contractor employed by and under the direction of a properly licensed solar contractor, performing work limited to the hoisting, placement and anchoring of solar collectors, photovoltaic panels, towers or turbines;]

Eliminating this language in current law---which was a carefully crafted compromise several years ago---would adversely impact not only the carpenters but other trades as well.

The technology is rapidly evolving to the point where solar membranes are included in many window, roofing and exterior panel products. As nanotechnology continues to make photovoltaic membranes and receptacles smaller and smaller, I suspect almost all exterior building products, namely windows, roofing and siding, will include photovoltaic membranes in one form or another in the very near future.

Let me give you just one example of why this change would be a problem for carpenters or other trades. We have a window manufacturing company that has a patented process where a photovoltaic membrane is included in the windows. Our members manufacture and install the windows. Under this proposal, our concern is that it would require a licensed electrician to handle or install these windows on a jobsite. Under this proposal, you would need a licensed electrician to install roof shingles that contain photovoltaic membranes.

We are not interested in doing any of the work that electricians currently do. But we strongly oppose efforts to mandate an electrician's license to handle, place or install windows, siding or roofing because they now include solar membranes.

Thank you for your consideration.



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